



BUDGET COMMITTEE



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Senator Gregg: Defeat of Conrad-Gregg Task Force Amendment is a Major Set-Back for Future Generations

Statutory Amendment is Not Interchangeable with Executive Order Commission

Senator Judd Gregg (R-NH), ranking member of the Senate Budget Committee and chief co-sponsor of the *Bipartisan Task Force for Responsible Fiscal Action Act of 2009* with Chairman Kent Conrad (D-ND), today reacted to the Senate's defeat, in a 53-46 vote, of the Conrad-Gregg amendment to the debt limit bill. Under a previous unanimous consent agreement, approval of the amendment would have required 60 votes.

"The Senate's defeat of the Conrad-Gregg amendment is yet another indication that Congress is more concerned with the next election than the next generation. This bipartisan task force is the best and most realistic option for tackling our tremendous levels of debt. To discard it is a major set-back for the future generations of Americans who will be left to pay down our debt at the expense of their standard of living and future economic growth.

"The statutory structure of the Conrad-Gregg task force is critical to this exercise, as it will guarantee true bipartisanship, expedited consideration of the task force's policy recommendations, and an up-or-down vote. In fact, a statutory task force like the one outlined in the Conrad-Gregg legislation may be the last and best chance to address the coming crisis in a bipartisan way."

Senator Gregg joined Chairman Conrad in introducing their updated Bipartisan Task Force (S. 2853) legislation in December, after originally introducing it in 2007. The Conrad-Gregg Bipartisan Task Force would create a commission of eight Democrats and eight Republicans from the Congress and two members from the Administration, who would be charged with making bipartisan recommendations to Congress on how to return the country to fiscal stability. These recommendations would be fast-tracked through Congress and guaranteed an up-or-down vote. Final passage would require supermajorities in both the Senate and House. In addition to Senators Conrad and Gregg, the bill currently has 27 co-sponsors.

-30-

Background information on the Conrad-Gregg Task Force:

<http://budget.senate.gov/republican/pressarchive/2009/12-9-09TaskForceFactSheet.pdf>